

**Maricopa County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Environmental Services
1001 North Central Avenue, 5th FI Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
3:00 p.m.
June 23, 2003**

Members Present:

Audrey Adamic
William C. Brainard, M.D.
Don Cassano
Susanne Cook
Steven G. Nelson, M.D.
Pam Wight
Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson, District 4

Members Excused:

Brian Spicker
Stephen West, M.D.

Member Absent:

Patrick Van Zanen

Ex Officio: Jonathan B. Weisbuch, M.D., M.P.H.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.; five members were present with one member excused.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of the May 19, 2003 Board of Health Meeting Minutes:

Dr. Brianard made the motion to approve the May 19, 2003 Board of Health Meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Cassano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by six votes.

Appointment of a Board of Health Member to the Health Care for the Homeless Advisory Board:

Ms. Stein, Program Administrator, Health Care for the Homeless Clinic, is present to ask a member of the Board of Health to serve as a representative on the Health Care for the Homeless Advisory Council. The services provided to the homeless community are totally grant funded. The guidelines request that an advisory council meet once a quarter to discuss the services provided as requested by the guidelines of funding. The council meets the 4th Tuesday of each quarter for approximately two hours at the 1201 E. Madison Street location. Approximately twelve individuals serve on the council. Dr. Brainard volunteered to serve on the Health Care for the Homeless Advisory Council for a one-year period.

Menpower Program:

Mr. Leeth, Coordinator of the Menpower Program, Department of Public Health, explained the Menpower Program was created in 1994 in collaboration with the Tempe Police Department and concerned citizens. The Menpower Program is a preventive program consistent with other programs across the country. The estimated cost of treatment for HIV for one individual a year is \$50,000. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that preventing HIV transmission in two individuals a year more than covers the cost of funding provided by the CDC grant. Mr. Leeth informed the Board that when the program was operational over 1200 men were annually informed that they would be breaking the law and placing themselves and their family at risk to serious disease if they engaged in risky behavior in the parks. Mr. Leeth indicated that a few of the contacts heeded the message possibly preventing disease transmission. Mr. Leeth also stated that at least 100 individuals die with HIV each year in Maricopa County, a number which is understated since HIV is usually not listed as the primary cause of death. In Maricopa County HIV transmission is primarily a result of men having sex with men without appropriate protection. Mr. Leeth explained that the program is welcomed by other community agencies and serves as an outreach program to initiate contact with individuals, gain their respect, and provide information and contacts to provide counseling and disease prevention. Mr. Leeth said the goal of the program is to control the spread of disease.

Mr. Leeth indicated that following the Channel 15 story in October 2002, the Menpower Program was stopped and a study committee was established to determine three questions about the program:

1. Is the Menpower Program an appropriate public health intervention;
2. Is the program supported by law enforcement and the city park officials who police these areas to prevent illegal activities; and
3. Are the protocols and procedures of the program designed to protect the County, its employees, and its citizens, from allegations of inappropriate use of public funds?

The committee report published in April was affirmative on each issue; it recommended reinstatement of the program for the remaining five months of the grant period rather than the return of the unspent funds to the state. Mr. Leeth concluded his presentation by offering three options to consider:

1. Reinstatement of the program as originally structured;
2. Continue the educational program in the parks without the distribution of condoms; and

3. Subcontract the program for the remaining five months of funding.

Mr. Cassano made a motion to discontinue the original program and provide literature to the individuals. Dr. Brianard seconded the motion. A motion was not made by the membership to approve this motion by Mr. Cassano.

Ms. Adamic made a motion to support the program as originally adopted without changes, Mr. Cassano seconded the motion. The motion passed by four votes. Ms. Cook, Supervisor Wilson, and Dr. Brainard abstained from voting. Ms. Cook requested more information to make a determination.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Environmental Services 2003/2004 Budget Submittal:

Mr. Luder, Finance Manager, Environmental Services, presented a handout to the members for the 2003/2004 Environmental Services budget submittal. There is an overall increase of \$16,436 to the General Fund. OMB is recognizing the increase in revenues for fees collected over the last few years and has included those increases for the 2003/2004 budget.

Department of Public Health 2003/2004 Budget Submittal:

Mr. Ahl, Deputy Director, Department of Public Health, said the budget was approved this morning by the Board of Supervisors. This budget contains most of the departmental requests with the exception of a \$50,348 grant funding exception where indirect costs were calculated in a different manner from all of the other grants. Mr. Ahl is continuing to discuss the unusual circumstances surrounding this calculation and hopes to resolve the issue over the next few weeks.

Nominations for the Chairman's Award:

This is the fourth year that the Chairman's Award will be presented to an individual(s) from the community. Dr. Weisbuch asked the Board of Health if they would like a more formal approach to select the recipient of the 2003 Chairman's Award? Supervisor Wilson asked that each nominee receive a formal letter advising they were nominated as a candidate in the search for the nomination for the 2003 Chairman's Award. Every Board of Health member is eligible to nominate individuals. Dr. Weisbuch will develop criteria for future Chairman's Award selections in addition to a list of nominees for the September Board of Health meeting.

Congenital Syphilis in Maricopa County:

Dr. Campos-Outcalt, Director, Public Health Clinical Services, presented a powerpoint presentation to the Board of Health members outlining the syphilis epidemic in Maricopa County. Maricopa County ranks second in the United States with New Jersey ranking first. Dr. Campos-Outcalt is asking the Board of Health members for a recommendation as to how to instill a preventive program to tighten the gaps that have materialized and result in approximately 20 babies a year born with congenital syphilis. One of the best approaches is to mandate testing in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy. The problem with this approach is that many individuals do not receive prenatal care. The epidemic continues through sex workers, migrants, and mothers, not knowing they are affected. A screening program is in place in the jails but this program does not cover all of the gaps. Dr. Campos-Outcalt will report to the Board of Health members with a policy recommendation at the next Board of Health meeting on July 28th.

Current Events Summary:

No items or issues were discussed.

Call to the Public:

No one was present to respond.

Announcements:

After thirty years of distinguished service Mr. Sparkes, Finance Manager of Environmental Services, will retire on June 30, 2003.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Pam Wight, President

Jonathan B. Weisbuch, M.D., Secretary

The minutes were transcribed and edited by Susan Attiah.